

**In the Claims:**

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~claim 4~~ claim 81, wherein the closing member ~~off is achievable by the use of~~ is a blanking plate.
3. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 81 ~~claim 4~~, wherein the closing member ~~off is achievable by the use of~~ a blanking pin which is inserted into the perforation in step a) ii).
4. (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the blanking pin is moveable within the perforation to adjust the volume of the closed-off perforation.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 81 ~~claim 4~~, wherein the diameter of the closed-off perforation is between 1.5 and 15 mm.
7. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 81 ~~claim 4~~, wherein said at least one first leveler blade moves on a linear sweeping path relative to the perforate plate.
8. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 81 ~~claim 4~~, wherein the forward acute angle is between 1 and 60°.
9. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 8, wherein the forward acute angle is between 5° and 25°.
10. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 81 ~~claim 4~~, wherein the at least one first leveler blade presents multiple forward acute angles to the linear sweeping path.

11. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 10, wherein the ~~first~~at least one leveler blade is curved in form.

12. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 11 wherein the at least one ~~first~~-leveler blade is articulated in form.

13. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 81~~claim 4~~, wherein the ~~first~~at least one leveler blade has a flat tail section.

14. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 7, comprising plural movements of the ~~first~~ at least one leveler relative to the perforated plate prior to transferring the contents of the perforation to said container.

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 81~~claim 15~~ wherein the depth of said excess ~~thin layer of~~ powder is from 3 to 20 mm.

17. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 16 wherein the depth of said ~~thin layer of~~ excess powder is from 4 to 8 mm.

18. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 81~~claim 7~~, wherein there is a first leveler blade and ~~the powder is further directable by~~ at least one subsequent leveler blade.

19. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 18 wherein the at least one subsequent leveler blade is positioned at a distance from the first side of the perforated plate and the distance from the subsequent leveler blade to the first side of the perforated plate ~~and~~ is equal to or less than the distance from the first leveler blade to the first side of the perforated plate.

20. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 19 wherein the first leveler blade is positioned from 0 to 12 mm farther from the first side of the perforated plate than the at least one subsequent leveler blade.

21. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 20 wherein the first leveler blade is positioned from 1 to 3 mm farther from the first side of the perforated plate than the at least one subsequent leveler blade.

22-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 81 ~~claim 4~~, wherein the container is a blind cavity.

38. (Original) A method according to claim 37, wherein the blind cavity is selected from the group consisting of a blister pocket, an injection moulded plastic pocket, a capsule and a bulk container.

39. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 81 ~~claim 4~~, additionally comprising applying a lid to the container to protect the contents therein.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 81 ~~claim 40~~, wherein the medicament formulation comprises a medicament ~~is selected~~ from the group consisting of albuterol, salmeterol, fluticasone propionate and beclomethasone dipropionate and salts or solvates thereof and any mixtures thereof.

42 – 80. (Cancelled)

81. (Previously presented) A method of loading a defined quantity of a powdered medicament formulation into a container for use in an inhalation device, which method comprises:

- a) i) providing a perforated plate which has first and second sides and a perforation having a first opening in the first side and a second opening in the second side, and  
ii) closing off the perforation at the second opening by locating a closing member at the second side of the perforated plate;
- b) providing at least one leveler blade which is non-contactingly spaced from the first side of the perforated plate and presents a forward acute angle to a sweeping path which the at least one leveler blade is to follow relative to the perforated plate;
- c) directing powdered medicament formulation from a reservoir thereof, which is disposed on the first side of the perforated plate, through the first opening into said closed-off perforation onto the closing member by moving the at least one leveler blade through the reservoir along the sweeping path relative to the perforated plate to fill the closed-off perforation with the defined quantity of powdered medicament formulation and leave an excess of the powdered medicament formulation on the first side of the perforated plate overlying the filled perforation;
- d) removing the excess powdered medicament formulation from the first side of the perforated plate by the action of a wiper;
- e) introducing a compacting pin into the first opening of the perforation and compacting the defined quantity of powdered medicament formulation in the perforation between the compacting pin and the closing member; and
- f) transferring the content of the perforation to said container by:
  - i) moving the closing member to reopen the second opening of the perforation,
  - ii) placing the container in registration with the second opening, and
  - iii) moving the compacting pin in the perforation towards the second opening.